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Patent Application Serial Number 09/062,881 filed April 20, 1998 which is a continuation-in-part of Serial No. 08/964,733, filed on November 5, 1997, now U.S. Patent No. 5,859,150, which is a continuation-in-part of Serial No. 08/744,289, filed on November 6, 1996, now U.S. patent 5,698,213, which is a continuation-in-part of Serial No. 08/611,119, filed March 5, 1996, now U.S. Patent No. 5,607,687, which is a continuation-in-part of Serial No. 08/554,614, filed November 6, 1995, now abandoned, which is a continuation-in-part of Serial No. 08/399,308, filed March 6, 1995, now U.S. Patent No. 5,464,929 all assigned to Ethicon, Inc.

Remarks

The application has been amended to reflect its divisional status with respect to the parent application hereof.

Claims 1-24 are pending in the application. Claims 1-24 are subject to a restriction requirement between group (a), claims 1-23, drawn to a method of adhesion prevention using a single polymer, and group (b) drawn to a method of adhesion prevention using at least two polymers. Applicants respectfully elect group (a), claims 1-23 for prosecution on the merits, with traverse.

Applicants are further required to elect a single species with respect to claims 1-14, 19-24 and 15-18, in that the Examiner maintains that claims 1-14 and 19-24 are drawn to polymers where crosslinking is unspecified, while claims 15-18 are drawn to crosslinked polymers.

Applicants respectfully traverse the restriction requirement in part based on the grounds that the claims are not patentably distinct, in that claim 24 is an obvious variant of claim 1. Furthermore, with respect to crosslinking, claim 15 is not drawn to a crosslinked polymer, but to a polymer having polymerizable moieties attached thereto, thereby providing polymerizable regions. As noted at page 27, lines 17-24 of the application, the polymerizable regions are provided by the inclusion of polymerizable moieties, e.g. acrylates, diacrylates, etc., on the polymer chain. The polymer chains then "may" be crosslinked one to the other by reaction of the polymerizable regions by, e.g. photoinitiation by free radical generation. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 15 should be included within the group of noncrosslinked polymers.